GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1891
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
IMPACT OF WTO ON SUGAR INDUSTRY
SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts have expressed grave apprehensions in regard to the potential of sugar industry to face the new challenges as a result of the agreement signed with the World Trade Organisations; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to fully equip the sugar industry to face the challenges of the World Trade Organisation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) : The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not received any communication/representation from the sugar industry expressing grave concern in regard to the implementation of the agreement signed with the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

(b) : In order to protect the interests of the sugar industry and the sugarcane farmers, the Government has increased the custom duty upto 60% in addition to the countervailing duty of Rs.850.00 per tonne. This has helped in checking the inflow of the imported sugar in th e country. Further, the Government has adopted suitable mechanism for monitoring of the imported and sensitive items and are committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which included appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safe guard action and imposition of countervailing duties under certain specified circumstances.